



## Review

Answer these questions about Writing Part 2.

- 1 How many words do you have to write in this part?
- 2 How many paragraphs are you likely to write in an answer of that length?
- 3 Which are the only four types of text you might have to write in a set text question?

## Organising your writing

1 Look at this task and the sample answer to it, then answer these questions.

- 1 What is the topic of each paragraph?
- 2 A sentence which introduces or summarises the theme of the paragraph can be called the *topic sentence*. Underline the topic sentence of each paragraph.
- 3 What do you notice about where the topic sentence occurs?

You see this announcement on a website.

We are looking for reviews of the best and the worst music video you have ever seen. Write us a review briefly describing these two videos, explaining why you think they are particularly good or particularly bad and commenting on how important you think music videos are for fans.

Write your **review**.

## Sample answer

- 1 *The best and worst music videos I have ever seen were curiously by the same band. They were both for songs by 'The Reds', which is one of my favourite bands of all time. The best one was for their song 'Dream Song', which was one of their first-ever releases. The worst was for 'Night Rider', a hit they had last year.*
- 2 *The video for 'Dream Song' looked as good as the song sounded. It opened with a young girl lying asleep in a hammock. You were shown what she was dreaming about and it was all very beautiful and romantic. It matched the song's lyrics perfectly.*
- 3 *The video for 'Night Rider' began quite effectively but soon deteriorated. The dramatic opening sequence of a horseman riding through a dark forest was followed by a rapid sequence of different shots which were not obviously connected and didn't make any sense to me. I couldn't understand what relation the pictures had to the music.*
- 4 *Music videos are popular with many fans because they help them to understand the meaning of the songs they accompany. They also enjoy seeing the stars performing their work. The videos make the music an experience for the eyes as well as the ears. In short, there are a number of different reasons why music videos appeal to fans.*
- 5 *Although music videos like 'Dream Song' can be dramatic and original films, I generally prefer to listen to my music without an accompanying video. That way I can focus more on how the music sounds. I'd much rather use my own imagination to picture what the track relates to.*

**2 Now look at these tasks. Write a plan for a four- or five-paragraph answer to each one.**

- (a) This is part of a letter you receive from an English-speaking friend.

In class we've been discussing the relationships between teenagers and adults. Can you write and tell me about the situation in your country? How do teenagers and adults see each other? What sorts of things do teenagers and adults tend to disagree about? What do you think could be done to improve the relationship between these generations?

Write your **letter**.

- (b) In class, you have been discussing sport. Your teacher has asked you to write an essay saying if you agree with the following opinion:

The enormous salaries that top footballers receive create problems both for the players and for the game.

Write your **essay**.

**3 Write a topic sentence for each paragraph of the two tasks you planned.**

**Useful language: good beginnings**

Which do you think is the better beginning for each of the three tasks?  
Why is the other beginning not so good?

- a1 *Music videos are sometimes very good and sometimes very bad.*
- a2 **Music videos differ enormously in terms of originality, production values and appeal.**
- b1 *Thanks for your letter. I've found it very interesting to give some thought to your questions about how teenagers and adults get on in this country.*
- b2 **Thanks for your letter. I don't have too much news for you at the moment – I've been so busy preparing for my exam that I haven't had time for anything else.**
- c1 *The enormous salaries that top footballers receive create problems both for the players and for the game.*
- c2 **A top footballer in my country receives more money in one week than a nurse receives in a year.**

**Tip!** If you are asked to write a contribution to an article, then the style will be that of an article. If you are asked to write a contribution to a longer report, then the style will be that of a report.

**Tip!** If you are studying one or both of the set texts, make brief notes in English on each of these aspects of the text and you should be able to deal with any question:

- the characters
- the plot
- the setting (time and place)
- the main themes
- what you like and what you don't like about the text

**1 Look at each of the following tasks 2–5.**

- 1 Which task do you think would be the best one for you to choose?
- 2 What factors do you need to consider when choosing a task?

**2 Write an answer to the task you chose, using the advice to help you.**

Write an answer to **one** of the questions **2–5** in this part. Write your answer in **220–260** words in an appropriate style.

**2** You see this announcement in a leisure magazine.

We are looking for articles which encourage young people to take up an unusual leisure activity. Your article should outline the activity, describe one or two of your own experiences of doing the activity and explain how you think young people can benefit from doing this activity.

Write your **article**.

- 3** A friend of yours has applied for a summer job with a travel company and has given your name as a reference. The job involves looking after tourists from all over the world who are staying in your town. The person needs to get on well with all sorts of people, to be enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the area and to be able to cope under pressure. Write a reference for your friend explaining why you think s/he possesses these qualities.

Write your **letter of reference**.

- 4** The college where you are studying English has received a gift of money to buy equipment for its study centre. The money can be spent on either three TVs or three computers or on some other equipment. Students have been asked to write proposals suggesting exactly what the money should be spent on and explaining why they think this will be of particular use to language students.

Write your **proposal**.

- 5** Note that the following questions are designed to give you practice answering a question on any set text. In the actual exam each of the questions will be clearly related to one specific text only.

- (a)** You have been asked to write a review of *Text X* for your college magazine. Your review should focus on how effective you think the beginning of the story is. You should also explain how enjoyable you think other students would find the text.

Write your **review**.

- (b)** In class you have been discussing the topic of friendship. Your teacher has now asked you to write an essay considering the role of friendship in *Text Y*. Compare two different friendships in the story and explain which you feel is the stronger of these two relationships.

Write your **essay**.

## Advice

**2** An article has to interest readers from the start so it is important to begin effectively – with a question, perhaps.

**3** Think about the style you need for a written reference. What sort of words would you avoid using? Would you use contractions?

**4** In a proposal it is important to be persuasive, but in a way that is as clear, rational and objective as possible. Headings may help you do this effectively.

**5 (a)** This example of a set text question has two separate parts. Remember to deal with both parts. Is there any way you could link the two parts?

**5 (b)** Remember that there are many different types of friendship. It would be possible to include both a casual acquaintanceship and a deep relationship under the broad umbrella of friendship – as long as you explain why you think each of the relationships you select deserves to be called a friendship.